

## Scientific Note

### WEEVILS NEW TO THE STATE OF WASHINGTON (COLEOPTERA: CURCULIONIDAE)

During 1994–95, a qualitative study to evaluate insect biodiversity was conducted at the Hanford Site which is located in southcentral Washington State. Situated in the semi-arid Columbia Plateau Basin, this 560 square mile site was closed to the general public in the early 1940s. Originally acquired by the United States federal government as a site for the production of plutonium to be used in weapons production, the site is currently administered by the Department of Energy for nuclear waste management, environmental restoration, and research and development.

Our studies were confined primarily to the Fitzner-Eberhardt Arid Lands Ecology Reserve (ALE). An area of over 100 square miles, the ALE is located in the southwestern portion of the Hanford Site (latitude N 46°, longitude W 119°). Physiographically diverse, the site consists of a steeply rising, northeast facing slope (Rattlesnake Ridge — 1150 m) and extensive flats that slope gently from 500 to 150 m. Vegetation consists primarily of a sagebrush-bitterbrush/Sandberg's bluegrass-cheatgrass type, the general habitat is referred to as a shrub-steppe.

Thirty-three species of Curculionidae were collected during this study. Twenty-six are species more common to the central basin of Washington State and are associated with primary vegetation including rabbitbrush, sagebrush, lupine, and balsamroot (Hatch, M. H. 1971. *The Beetles of the Pacific Northwest.*, Univ. Washington Press). Seven of the species collected have previously not been recorded for Washington. Distributional data primarily are from O'Brien and Wibmer (1982. *Mem. Amer. Entomol. Institute*, 34: 1–382). The majority of specimens are in the M. T. James Entomological Collection, Washington State University; voucher specimens are in the private collection of the senior author (CWOB). A list of species and exact locations for individual collections within the ALE are available from RSZ.

First documented records for species from Washington State:

*Anthonomus cycliferus* Fall: widespread but spotty distribution throughout the western states.

*Anthonomus sphaeralciae* Fall: widespread throughout the southwest and central states, the species has also been found in Idaho. It is known to feed on several species of *Sphaeralcea* (Malvaceae) one of which, *S. munroana* (Dougl.) Spach, is widespread on the Hanford site.

*Ceutorhynchus erysimi* (Fabr.): an introduced species, it is widespread throughout the eastern United States and Canada but previously recorded only from Oregon in the western United States. The species feeds on various Cruciferae.

*Cleonidius erysimi* (Fall): previously known only from scattered locations throughout the western United States and Canada. It has been predominantly taken in sand dune habitats, as were our specimens. Adults and immatures have been collected from a variety of plants, primarily Cruciferae and some Compositae (Anderson, R. S. 1988. *Quaest. Entomol.*, 23: 431–709).

*Gymnetron pascuorum* (Gyllenhal): an introduced species that is widespread throughout much of the eastern and western United States. It has been reared from *Plantago lanceolata* (L.) (English plantain) (Hatch, M. H. 1971. *The Beetles of the Pacific Northwest*. Univ. Washington Press) which is widespread and common on the Hanford site.

*Lepesoma remota* (Van Dyke): previously known only from Oregon.

*Mecinus pyraster* (Herbst): an introduced species previously known only from Maryland, New Jersey, Florida, Virginia, and Oregon. The primary larval host is *Plantago* (Plantaginaceae) but *Mecinus* have also been found feeding in several genera of Scrophularaceae (Warner, R. E. 1955. *Entomol. News*, 66: 209–211).

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